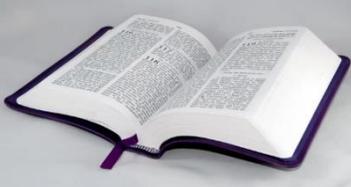


CRY OF THE CARDINAL

August 29, 2019 • St. John Lutheran School Newsletter • Issue 1

Pastor's Message



On behalf of our entire church family, I want to welcome all of you to another year at St. John Lutheran School. In future editions, I'll use this space to offer words of spiritual encouragement, but for this first edition, I just want to let all of you know that I'm here to serve you and your children.

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Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank you so much for bringing us safely into another school year. Watch over all of us – parents, students, teachers, and helpers – so that our time at St. John is always a blessing. Give us faithfulness and commitment. We're already victorious because of everything you've done for us – we're more-than-conquerors! Help us to live in that victory! Amen

Principal's Message

On behalf of all the staff at St. John Lutheran School, we welcome you to an exciting new school year! A new school year brings with it a few new changes around our school. The first is this publication which will be put out twice a month. We have also implemented a new information system called FastDirect which provides a parent portal for everything taking place at



St. John
LUTHERAN SCHOOL
Ignite. Infuse. Inspire.

St. John. Finally, all of our teachers have created and will soon be making use of their own classroom pages. The links to these pages can be found at www.stjlswrightstown.com.

We look forward to the amazing year ahead!

What's Happening?

Birthdays

August

- 5 Owen R. and Bekah K.
- 6 Norah B.
- 9 Claire D. and Jake B.
- 20 Mrs. Schmiel

Upcoming Events

- 8/30-9/2- Labor Day Break
- 9/3- Classes Resume
- 9/8- Installation of Pastor Wilke/Potluck
- 9/16- First EIO
- 9/20- Soccer Club Party
- 9/23- First PTO/CES Meeting
- 9/29- 150th Anniversary/Students Sing

Bible Passage: Praise be to the LORD God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God. Amen and Amen. *Psalm 41:13*

School News

Pastor's Message- continued from front page

Whether you're members of St. John or not, you're important to us – to me – and I want to do whatever I can to strengthen you in your relationship with Jesus, your Savior and mine. Since that strengthening comes through God's Word, I look forward to the many opportunities I'm going to have to share that Word with you and your kids. I love leading Wednesday chapels! I look forward to spending time at the school to just be a friendly face and helping hand. If you let me know what's happening in your life, I'd love to pray for you and share words of comfort and counsel. I'd be happy to study the Bible with anyone who wants to know more about it – individually or in a group with other school parents. Don't hesitate at all to reach out to me for anything! Call or text any time (920.309.5171) or shoot me an email (pastorgehl@gmail.com) and I'll get back to you as soon as I can. God's richest blessings in Christ! Pastor Mike Gehl

Calendar Events from St. John Lutheran Church

- Coffee with a Cop - community discussion - Thu, Sep 5th at 9:00a at The River Coffee & Cream
- Installation of Pastor Robert Wilke - our new part-time Pastor - Sun, Sep 8th at 4:00p
- English Improvement Opportunities - classes begin Mon, Sep 16th at 6:00p
- FVL Schools CC Meet - Mon, Sep 23rd at 4:30p at FVLHS, Appleton
- FVL Schools Community Parent Night (topic: Screenagers) - Wed, Sep 25th at 6:30p at FVLHS
- St. John's 150th Anniversary Service - Sun, Sep 29th at 10:00a at the church
- FVL Schools Community Parent Night (topic: Screenagers) - Tue, Oct 1st at 6:30p at St. Paul, G.B.

News from Fox Valley Lutheran High School

St. John Lutheran Church and School are partners in a 3K-grade 12 federation. St. John Lutheran Church operates St. John Lutheran School with their 3K-grade 8 campus here in Wrightstown and extends to our partner campus at Fox Valley Lutheran High School in Appleton for grades 9-12. To learn more about our high school go to www.fvlschools.org or www.fvlhs.org.

Next Friday, Sept. 6th, at 7:00 pm, the Foxes of Fox Valley Lutheran HS will host the Tigers of Wrightstown HS in a varsity football match-up. FVLHS is located at 5300 N Meade St. in Appleton. St. John Lutheran School will be recognized as special guests, and each St. John School family is welcome to claim two (2) FREE adult game passes*. Each K-8 student of St. John should've already received an "FVL Passport," which serves as their ticket for this and most home sporting events, plus a number of other concerts and musicals, during the entire 2019-20 school year. Come on out on Friday night and have a good time with your church/school family!

*If you're interested in going, contact Mr. Raddatz for game passes by Thursday of next week!

New Format for Saving Box Tops!

No more clipping. No more sending Box Tops to school. All you need is your phone! Download the ALL-NEW Box Tops app, register for our school, shop as you normally would, then simply scan your store receipts to find participating products. Our school is listed as ST JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL WRIGHTSTOWN, WI. The app will automatically credit your school's Box Tops earnings online. Twice a year, our school will receive a check and can use that money to buy whatever it needs!

Tuition Savings Through SCRIP

What is SCRIP? Scrip is a program that involves purchasing gift cards for places that you shop at on a regular basis. Need gas for your car? Purchase a gift card for Kwik Trip, Shell, or BP. Going grocery shopping? We've got cards for Dicks Family Foods, Festival Foods, Piggly Wiggly, and Roundy's (Pick'n'Save/Copps). Everyday needs? Grab a card for WalMart, Target, or Kohls. Taking the family out to eat or looking for something off the beaten path? Let us know what you need, and we will see if we can help you save. Every card you buy helps you save money on tuition and helps the school meet its needs.

How does it work? The Scrip program sells St. John the cards and certificates at a slight discount, allowing us to sell them to you at face value and still leave a profit. Each company varies the amount of the discount given. Thirty-five percent of the discount can be applied straight to your child(ren)'s tuition: For instance, one family may buy a \$100 Kwik Trip gift card, a \$250 Wal-Mart card, and a \$100 Festival Foods card. Kwik Trip gives us four percent (\$4), Wal-Mart rebates two and a half percent (\$6.25), and Festival gives four percent (\$4). The total rebate for St. John becomes \$14.25. Thirty-five percent gets applied to the family's tuition, saving them \$4.98 with just three gift cards. The family can restock their cards every few weeks, grab extras for Christmas, and ask grandparents if they would like to purchase cards.

How do I get started? St. John keeps popular cards in stock and can special order from thousands of companies. If you are interested in buying cards, just stop in to see Mrs. Wicks at the school or after church and ask her what cards are available or visit shopwithscrip.com to see the ever-increasing list of retailers who support Scrip. If you are interested in purchasing or reloading Scrip online, let us know so that we can help you set up an account.

Does it apply to me? Scrip can be used by anyone at any time. Current school families have Scrip taken off their tuition on a quarterly basis. Families who are looking at sending their little one to St. John in the future can start saving the rebate percentages now. Those who don't have children in St. John or planning to attend can donate the full amount to the school or to a family in need of tuition assistance. Every bit helps! How much can I save? Families who use Scrip on a regular basis for all of their shopping can save between \$150 and \$350 on tuition each year. Getting extended family to use Scrip can save you even more. Plan ahead to know which cards you will need soon and we will get them in stock for you to use them wherever you go.

Accelerated Reader

Students in K-8 use Accelerated Reader and the STAR reading assessment for a number of reasons. The STAR reading assessment is a valid and reliable test to determine your child's reading level. This way we can identify students who need extra help and we can also help students determine what level of books they should read. Regular reading practice is necessary for reading growth. Kids need books at the right level to avoid frustration and to maximize growth. This is the easiest way to ensure your child gets the right kind of practice. Each student has different levels and different goals for independent reading.

The Accelerated Reader program is used to help us track how much independent or home reading each child does and whether or not they are understanding the books they are reading. This is one more tool to help us ensure your child is getting enough of the right kind of reading practice. Neither of these tools teaches how to read or an appreciation for reading. This is where parents and teachers come in. We teach the children how to read and these tools assist us. Our attitudes and habits and the literature we share with students are what ultimately shape a child's views of reading.

Another component of Accelerated Reader is the point system. The point system helps students and teachers with goal setting and can also be used as a fun motivational tool for our quarterly incentives. First quarter STAR readers will get an "ice cream buffet" party at the end of the 1st quarter. Each child's teacher has set up their goals for the quarter, so be sure to ask your child about their individual goal.

These award-winning programs are backed by years of research and any further questions on this program are welcome. You may find some misinformation about these programs on the Internet either because the program is not correctly implemented or some people don't really understand how it works. Talk to Mrs. Bunn or your child's teacher if you'd like to know more or would like to see up to date data on the effectiveness of this program. This program has helped our students soar as readers and even achieve national recognition. We're excited that we have these tools to share with your child this year.

FVL Schools' Theme



Classroom News

Mr. Raddatz's Classroom

Honor. Respect. Love. Engage.

Honor God.

Respect authorities.

Love my neighbor.

Engage myself.

It may be a series of only nine words, but they are words we intend to guide us through out time at St. John. We are all excited to undertake all the new content, lessons, and activities that await us this year. With a full array of courses ranging from religion to literature/reading and social studies to cursive writing, there is a high level of anticipation for all the things to come.

Parents, here are some reminders of the options that exist through our classroom page:

-Homework questions can be directly sent to me by clicking the appropriate link on our page and filling in the necessary information.

-If your child is sick, homework can be sent to me and from me to your child at home if you desire them to have it.

-Any general questions can be sent through our page by clicking its link as well and again filling in the necessary information.

I have listed my contact information below for you to reference:

C: 920.636.5007

E: trr61210@gmail.com

Mrs. Bunn's Classroom

We had an amazing start to the school year! I was a little worried that it may be a rough week starting earlier this year and trying to recover from hip surgery. (I had surgery about six weeks ago to repair a torn labrum, missing cartilage, torn ligaments, joint deformities/impingement, and to clear out debris. They did a micro-fracture procedure as well to stimulate new cartilage growth. It's a fairly long recovery process, but so far it hasn't been too painful and physical therapy is going well.) The students have been good Christian brothers and sisters and extremely helpful with anything I've needed and I really appreciate their extra efforts. (My physical therapists would also be proud of the students who haven't failed to remind me to use my crutches. 😊)

Starting next week, a small homework packet will be going home in everyone's binder. For second grade this includes a spelling list, fluency practice page, and worksheets that help your child practice their spelling words. The front page tells you to cut the words apart. This is not necessary. They can just practice writing them. This entire packet is due Friday or the last day of that week. Your child can finish the packet early and hand it in early, but all pages should be handed in together. I recommend completing a page a day and to do the reading fluency page every day. The 3-4th graders have a packet that includes just their spelling list and spelling practice. They too have the option of doing a page a day or handing it in early. Again, all pages for the week should be handed in together.

If needed, your child can find additional spelling practice at www.spellingcity.com. They can play games with their spelling lists or take practice tests on a computer or a mobile device. All of my spelling lists have been uploaded by me or a parent volunteer. Ask your child to show you how they use this app or stop in to see me for a lesson on how to use the app.

Mrs. Wicks's Classroom

We are off to a great start—eager to see old friends and meet new ones and ready to learn! Our first week's homework was simply to get used to the new routine and get plenty of rest. Starting full-time school at this age can be exhausting and involve lots of big emotions coming out at night. Next week, we will start daily reading, memory work, and first grade spelling. I would also like to start having students practice reading and pre-reading daily to a volunteer. We have a volunteer lined up for Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday afternoons. I am still on the lookout for someone to come in on Mondays and/or Wednesdays from 1:00 until 1:40. The time is spent one-on-one with children reading to the volunteer from books that have been pre-selected to meet their reading level. Anyone who is interested in signing up for one or both of these days is asked to contact Mrs. Wicks.

Ms. Buss's Classroom

Greetings! Welcome to the start of the school year! I hope that you are all adjusting to the new routines. The kids seem to be adjusting in our classroom wonderfully! In our classroom this past week, we have explored our room, all the fun, new things that the kids have at school to do, and worked on different activities ranging from lining up, to how we do lunch and snack, to making cool things like necklaces! We read a few stories this past week on different characters going to school and how they felt and what they did. We also participated in different "Get to know me" activities so all our friends knew each other's names and a little bit about them. We had structured play time which also allowed everybody to get to know each other a little bit better and work on establishing (and strengthening) friendships. In all, we are off to a great start. Our topic of religion this week discussed how God is powerful, loves us, takes away our sins (we discussed what sin is), and we talked about how God is like the wind – he is always with us, but we can't see him. We will continue to add more elements to our days as the kiddos get acclimated to the classroom. As always, if you have any questions, reach out to me via email or the remind app. God's blessings on your upcoming week.

Mrs. Foelske's Classroom

Preschool has welcomed in a new year with lots of new faces! It is wonderful to meet new friends and to learn all about each other.

These first few weeks of school will be all about learning how we act when at school. Our favorite books to read are *Pigeon Has to Go to School*, *Llama Llama Misses Mamma*, and *How Do Dinosaurs Behave in School?* We are learning how to play with peers, clean up our toys, sit on a carpet in a group, and how to recognize our name.

We love to learn about the weather, days of the week, numbers, shapes, and colors during calendar time. We enjoy all the songs and dances through out the day. We have begun a special preschool cheer to end each day.

We look forward to the next weeks as we introduce new things to explore in our room as well as new books and songs to help us learn along the way. Mostly we are hoping the weather stays nice so we can continue playing outside.

Having a Blast in Preschool,
Mrs. Foelske